

Veteran of the Month January 2010

Congratulations to David H. Meltz!



In partnership with the Veterans Coordination Commission, we are pleased to present the January 2010 Veteran of the Month recognition to David H. Meltz.

David H. Meltz entered the United States Air Force in 1977. His first assignment was at Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan as a B-52 mechanic. David quickly moved up through the ranks, receiving numerous airman and noncommissioned officer of the quarter and year awards while at Wurtsmith. He made "below the zone" rank advancement to staff sergeant well ahead of his peers with his performance ratings routinely endorsed by Generals which was highly unheard of for mechanics. During his tour at Wurtsmith, he participated in an Air Force wide competition for aircraft mechanics (Giant Sword) in 1983 and 1984, taking second place both times. David was handpicked to join the startup team for the newly resuscitated B-1 Program in 1985 and reassigned to Dyess AFB, Texas.

While at Dyess, David worked closely with Rockwell International at Edwards AFB and the engineers building, designing and testing the B-1 fleet to be delivered to Dyess AFB. He was the very first fully qualified aircraft mechanic for the Air Force on the B-1B. David was the natural choice for the first team to arrive at Ellsworth AFB in July 1986. He continued his excellence with the receiving and delivery of the B-1B fleet at Ellsworth as well as the technical order validation process for the manuals used by the mechanics working on the jet.

David retired from active duty December 31, 1995 under the early retirement authority. His ribbons include the meritorious service medal, commendation medal, humanitarian service medal for his efforts during the local Westberry trails fire, expert small arms ribbon with/3 oak leafs and good conduct ribbon w/silver oak leaf.

David has used his unique abilities to network among his many contacts within the community to get much needed projects completed for the veteran's facility. He has also been instrumental in solicitation of generous monetary donations from the community. David is a firm believer in helping fellow veterans better their lives and is active at the Cornerstone Rescue mission, veterans section.